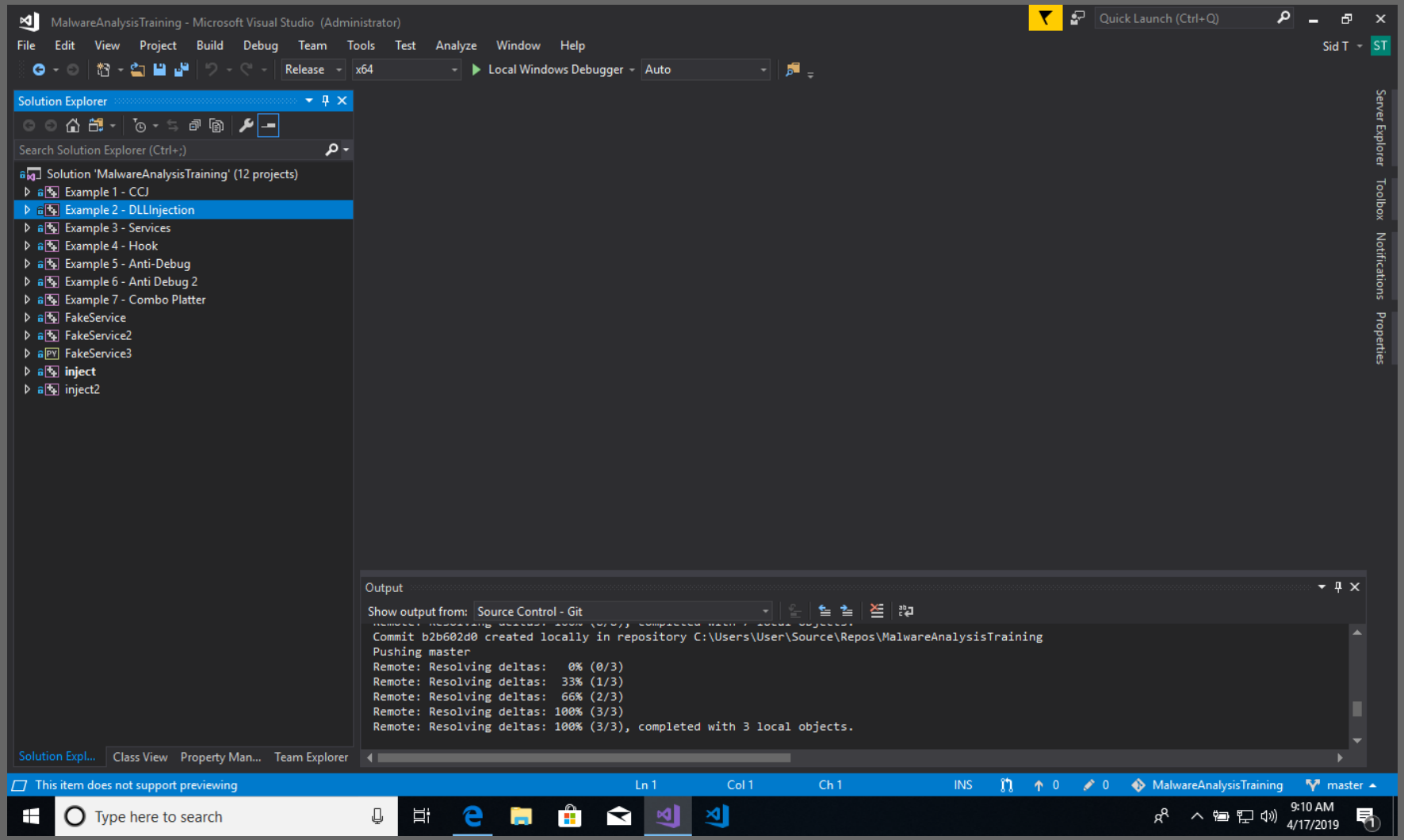
Part 1 – Example 2

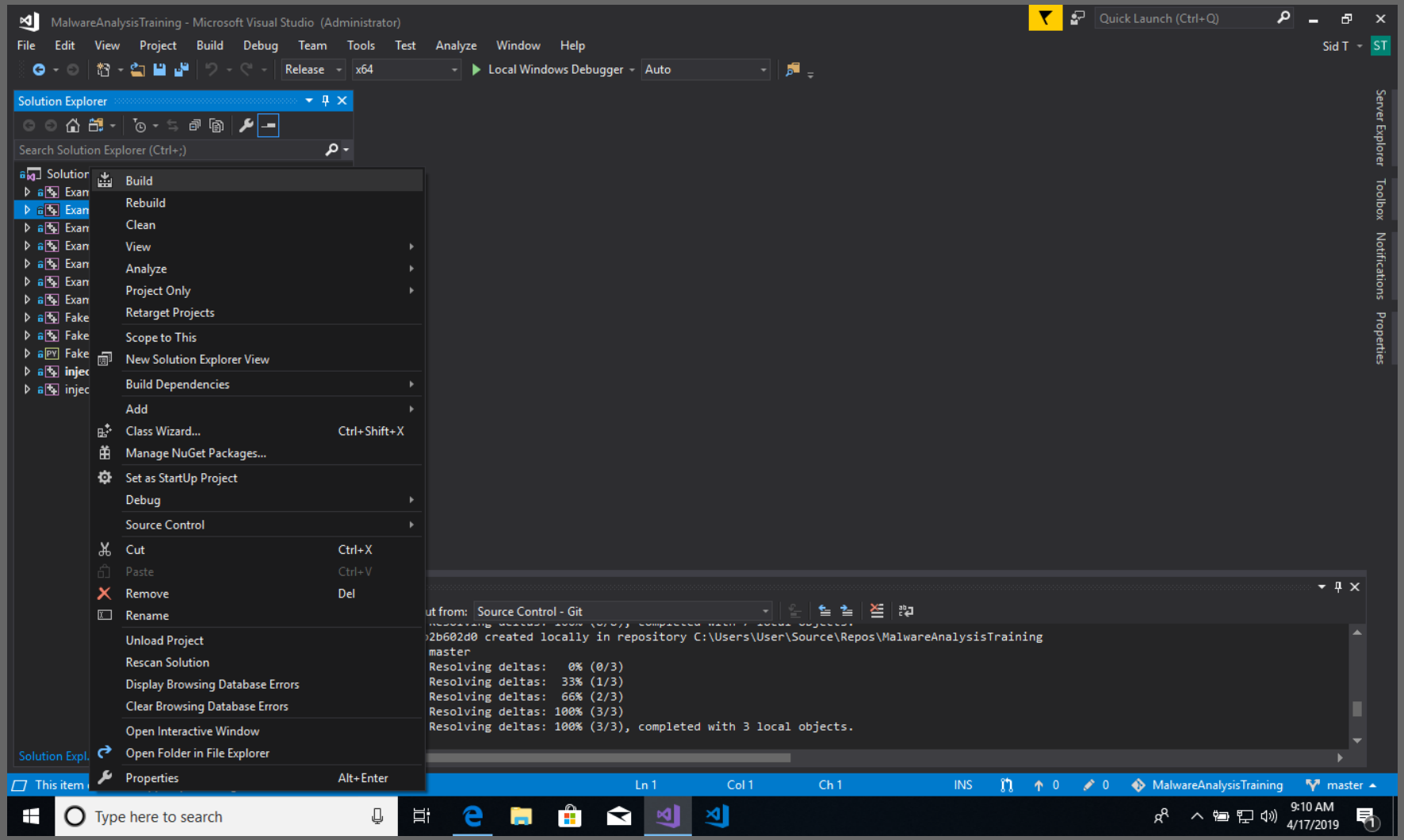
Opening Comments

- This example will be more hands off and to test whether or not you remember the techniques in Example 1.
- Your goal, in this example, is to create your own simple timeline of the malware's behavior

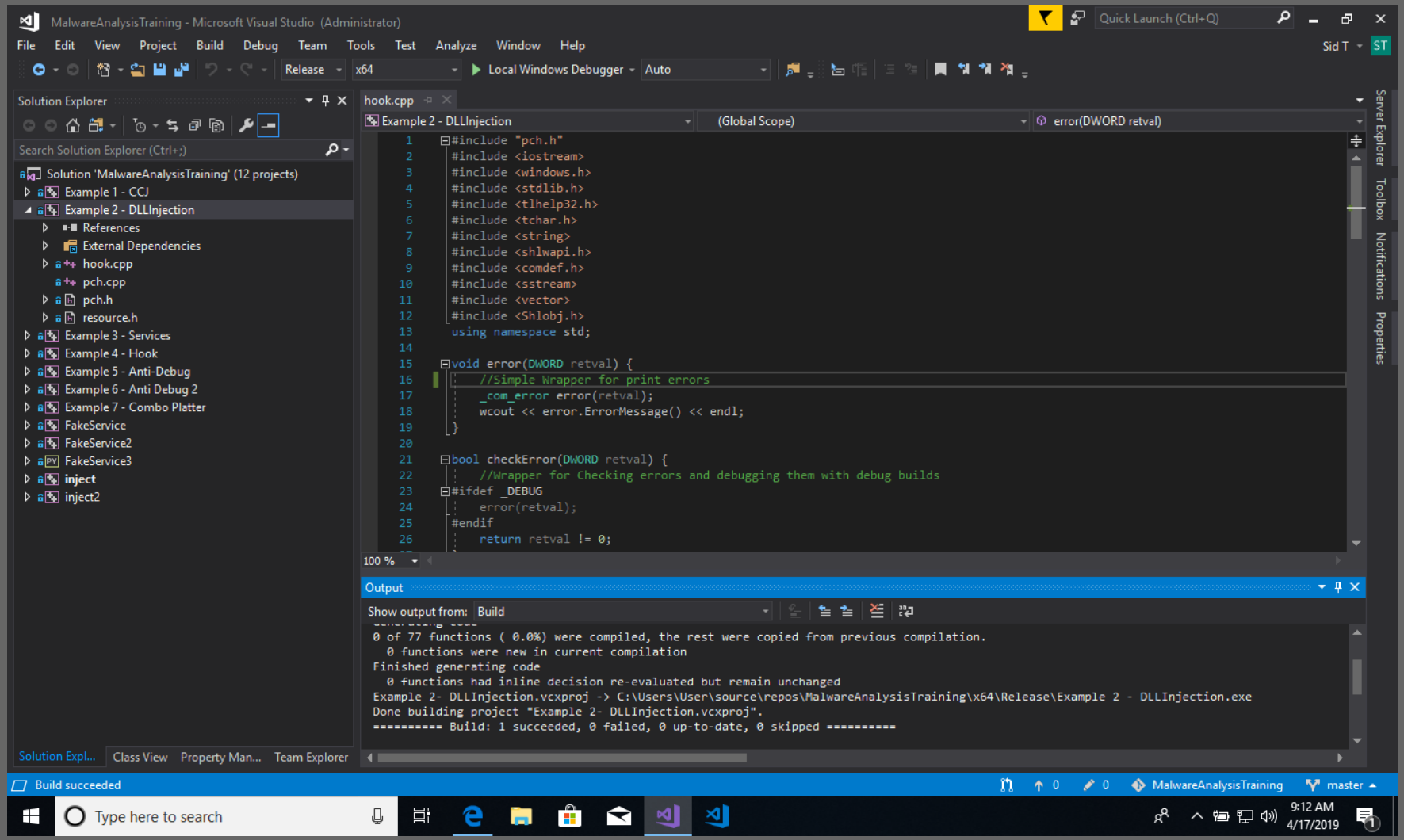
Setting up the Example



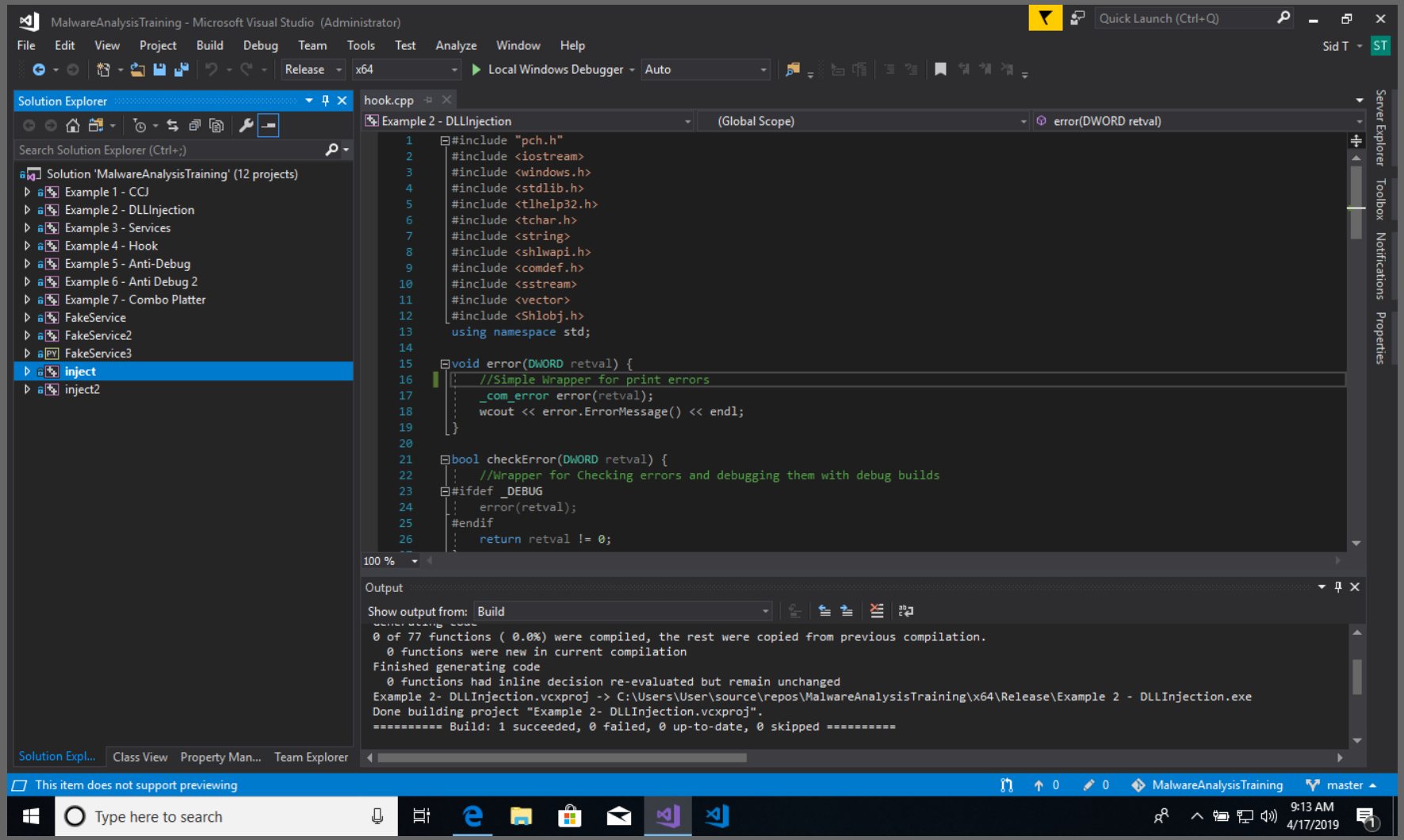
First things first. Build the Example 2 as a “Release” build. Don't forget to set “Any CPU” to x64/x86.



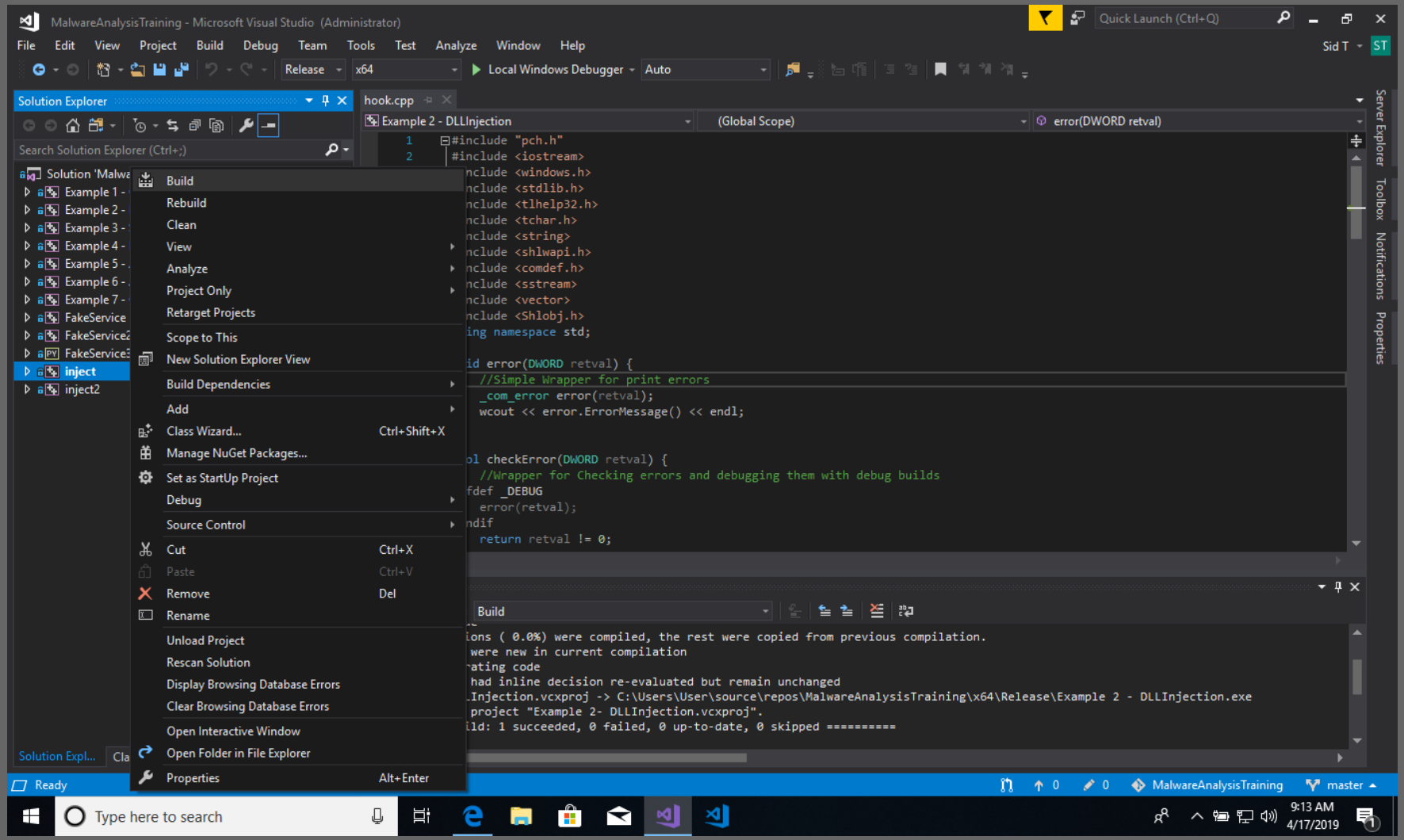
Example showing success of the build.



We're also going to go ahead and build the “inject” project as well. Hover over “inject” and click the “Build” option.



Build and success of inject.



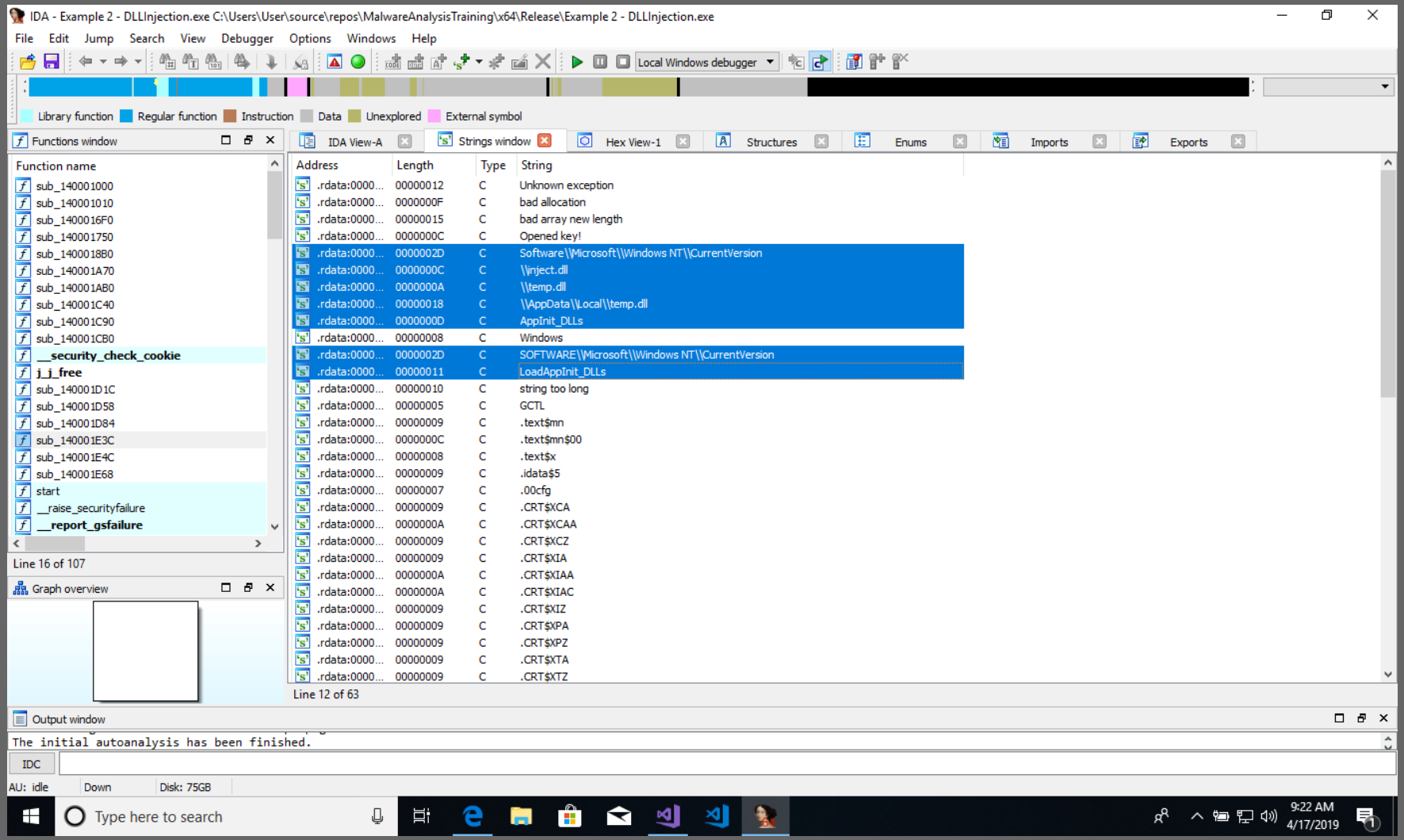
First steps

- Analyze the “Strings” first and figure out ones that are interesting.
- Come back to the slides once you've found a few and you can double check your work.
- If you get stuck look back at example 1's slides for hints.

Strings

- So your back with some strings
- In the next slide I”ll highlight from my IDA's point of view which ones I found interesting.

Strings


IDA - Example 2 - DLLInjection.exe C:\Users\User\source\repos\MalwareAnalysisTraining\x64\Release\Example 2 - DLLInjection.exe
File Edit Jump Search View Debugger Options Windows Help
Local Windows debugger
Library function Regular function Instruction Data Unexplored External symbol
Functions window
Function name
sub_140001000
sub_140001010
sub_1400016F0
sub_140001750
sub_1400018B0
sub_140001A70
sub_140001AB0
sub_140001C40
sub_140001C90
sub_140001CB0
__security_check_cookie
j_j_free
sub_140001D1C
sub_140001D58
sub_140001D84
sub_140001E3C
sub_140001E4C
sub_140001E68
start
__raise_securityfailure
__report_gsfailure
Line 16 of 107
Graph overview
IDA View-A
Strings window
Hex View-1
Structures
Enums
Imports
Exports
Address Length Type String
.rdata:0000... 00000012 C Unknown exception
.rdata:0000... 0000000F C bad allocation
.rdata:0000... 00000015 C bad array new length
.rdata:0000... 0000000C C Opened key!
.rdata:0000... 0000002D C Software\\Microsoft\\Windows NT\\CurrentVersion
.rdata:0000... 0000000C C \\inject.dll
.rdata:0000... 0000000A C \\temp.dll
.rdata:0000... 00000018 C \\AppData\\Local\\temp.dll
.rdata:0000... 0000000D C AppInit_DLLs
.rdata:0000... 00000008 C Windows
.rdata:0000... 0000002D C SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Windows NT\\CurrentVersion
.rdata:0000... 00000011 C LoadAppInit_DLLs
.rdata:0000... 00000010 C string too long
.rdata:0000... 00000005 C GCTL
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .text$mn
.rdata:0000... 0000000C C .textmn00
.rdata:0000... 00000008 C .text$x
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .idata$5
.rdata:0000... 00000007 C .00cfg
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XCA
.rdata:0000... 0000000A C .CRT$XCAA
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XCZ
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XIA
.rdata:0000... 0000000A C .CRT$XIAA
.rdata:0000... 0000000A C .CRT$XIAC
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XIZ
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XPA
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XPZ
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XTA
.rdata:0000... 00000009 C .CRT$XTZ
Line 12 of 63
Output window
The initial autoanalysis has been finished.
IDC
AU: idle Down Disk: 75GB
Type here to search
9:22 AM
4/17/2019

Strings

- Now let's discuss the ones picked out and why their interesting.
- “Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion” looks like a registry key to me and is a prime string to do analysis on.
- “temp.dll”, “inject.dll” are filenames that may be used during runtime.
- AppInit_DLLs and LoadInit_DLLs are discussed on the next slide.

AppInit_DLLs & LoadInit_DLLs

- This two are super important. Anytime you run into a string that you don't know you should use a search engine and see if a result comes up.
- If they have a Microsoft doc web page associated with them their pretty important.
- Let's see what the description is for these strings.

AppInit_DLLs & LoadInit_DLLs

- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows

- All the DLLs that are specified in this value are loaded by each Microsoft Windows-based application that is running in the current log on session.

What does it mean?

- This means that every time user32.dll is loaded into a file at runtime the file in that registry location with be loaded along with it.
- Sounds like a pretty nice spot for malware to put itself into it.

Imports

- Time to do your analysis on imports and see if there are interesting functions.
- Do some analysis and come back to the slides to double check what you've found.

Import findings.

- The ones found interesting are:
  - RegSetKeyValueA
  - RegOpenKeyExA
  - GetCurrentDirectoryA
  - MoveFileExA
  - CopyFile
- Now let's discuss why

Import Findings

- For the author of the malware to modify AppInit_DLLs they must open the registry and then edit the registry.
- RegSetKeyValueA and RegOpenKeyExA allow this to happen. You should probably put some breakpoints on these functions to test this theory.

Import Findings

- GetCurrentDirectoryA
- MoveFileExA
- CopyFile

- These are indicative of file name change, file movement, and file lookup.
- The author of the malware needs to put something in place for AppInit_DLLs to work, aka a .dll file. Breakpointing here should allow us to see the file being copied and moved.

Comments on Static Analysis

- By now we can create a general hypothesis of what's happening in this file just from strings and imports.

1) The binary wishes to edit AppInit_DLLS and LoadInit_DLLs.
2) The binary wishes to move files around, possibly a .dll
3) This moved file will then be loaded later in anything that uses user32.dll

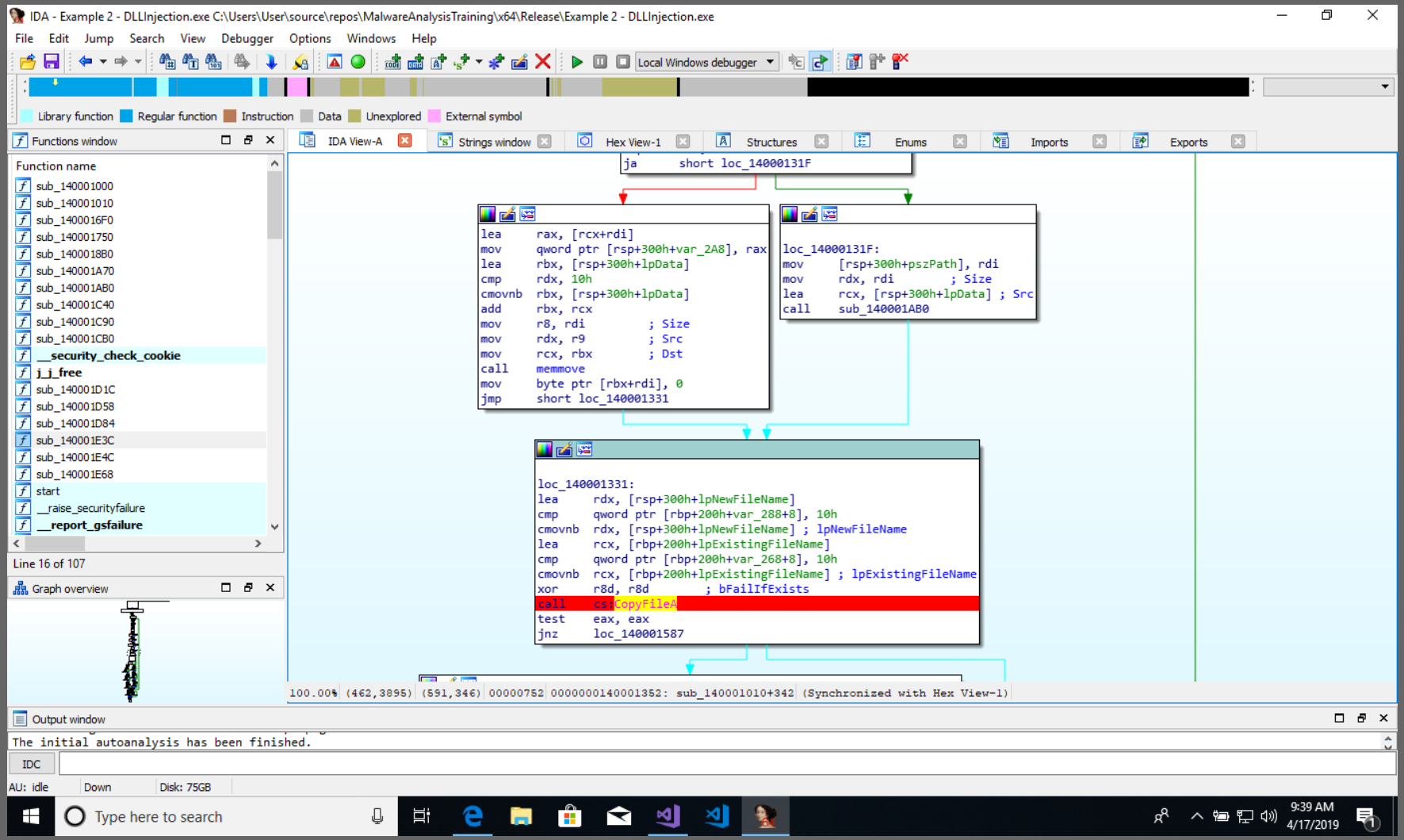
Dynamic Analysis Goal

- We have some hypothesis's to prove.
- We need to use our breakpoints and debugging skills in the dynamic analysis stage to prove these hypothesis's.
- Use the IDA debugger/Windbg to show proof that these events are happening.
- Come back to the slides once you have maybe some evidence of such things occurring

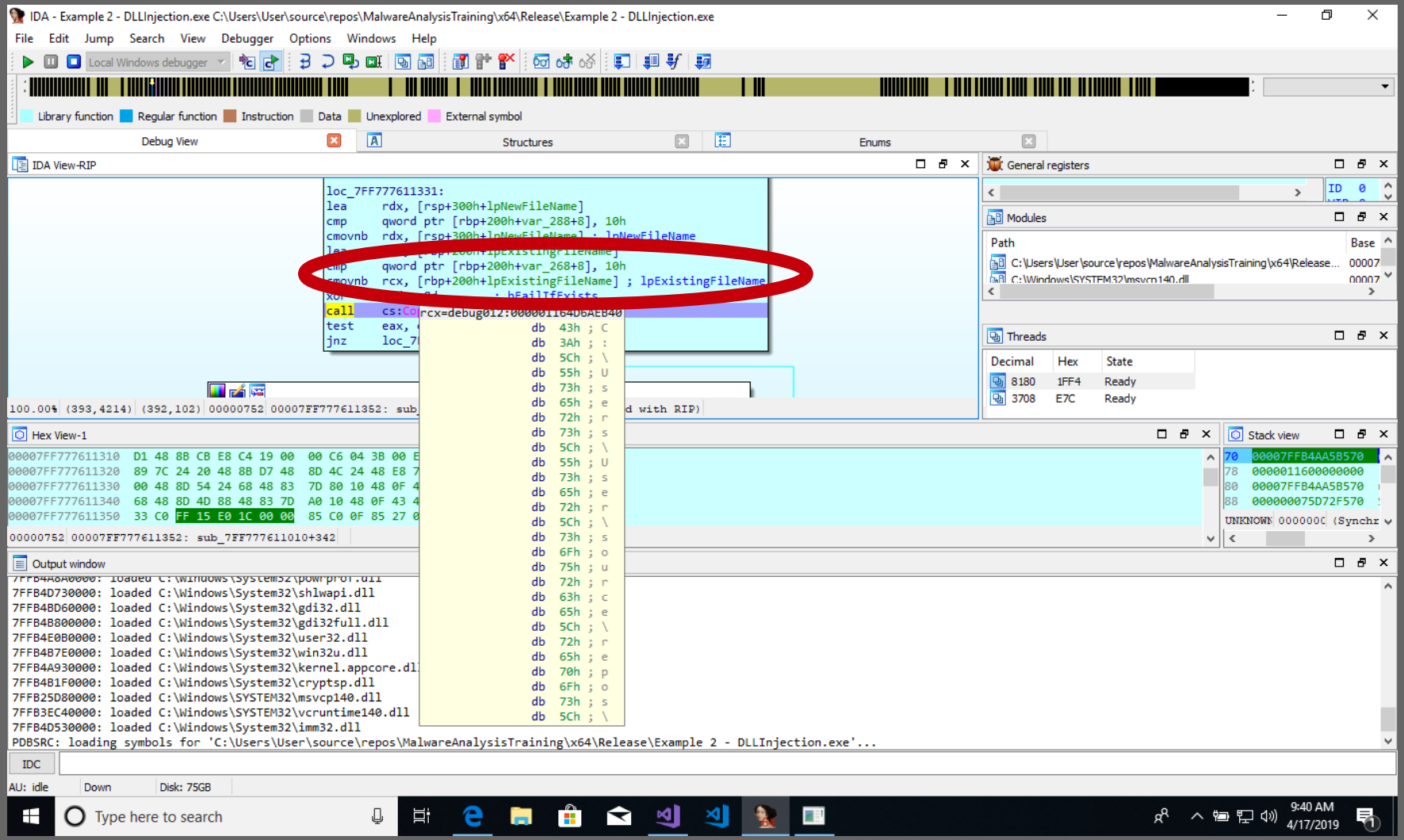
Dynamic Analysis

- Welcome back.
- What evidence did you find for our hypothesis's?
- In the next few slides I”ll show you some pictures showing some evidence of the findings and even some further things to analyze.

I stuck a breakpoint on CopyFileA to watch the input into the function.



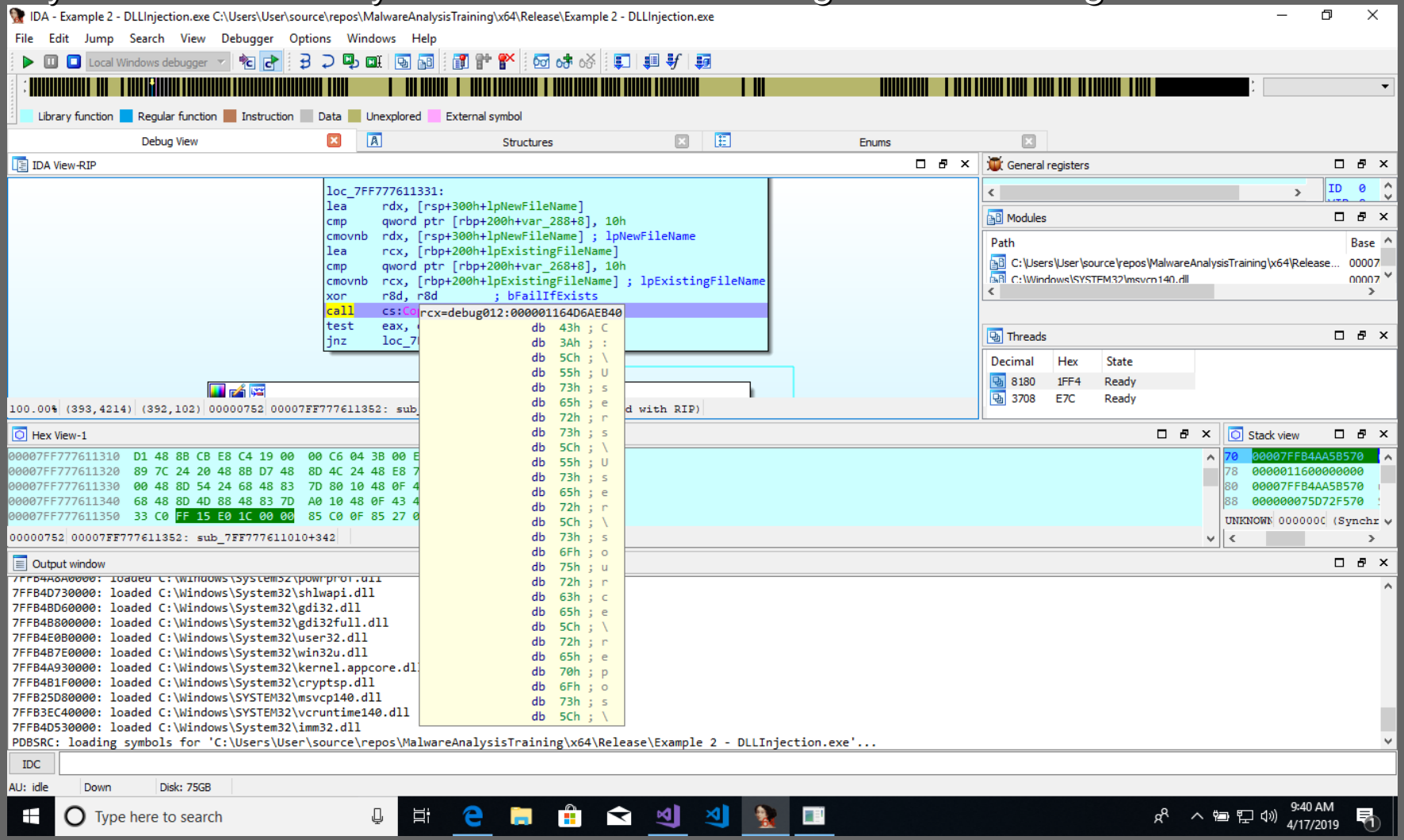
Looks like we've got a filename going through CopyFileA. On the line circled in red there's an attribute called “lpExistingFileName” and above that “lpNewFIleName” denoted in dark blue in ida while debugging.



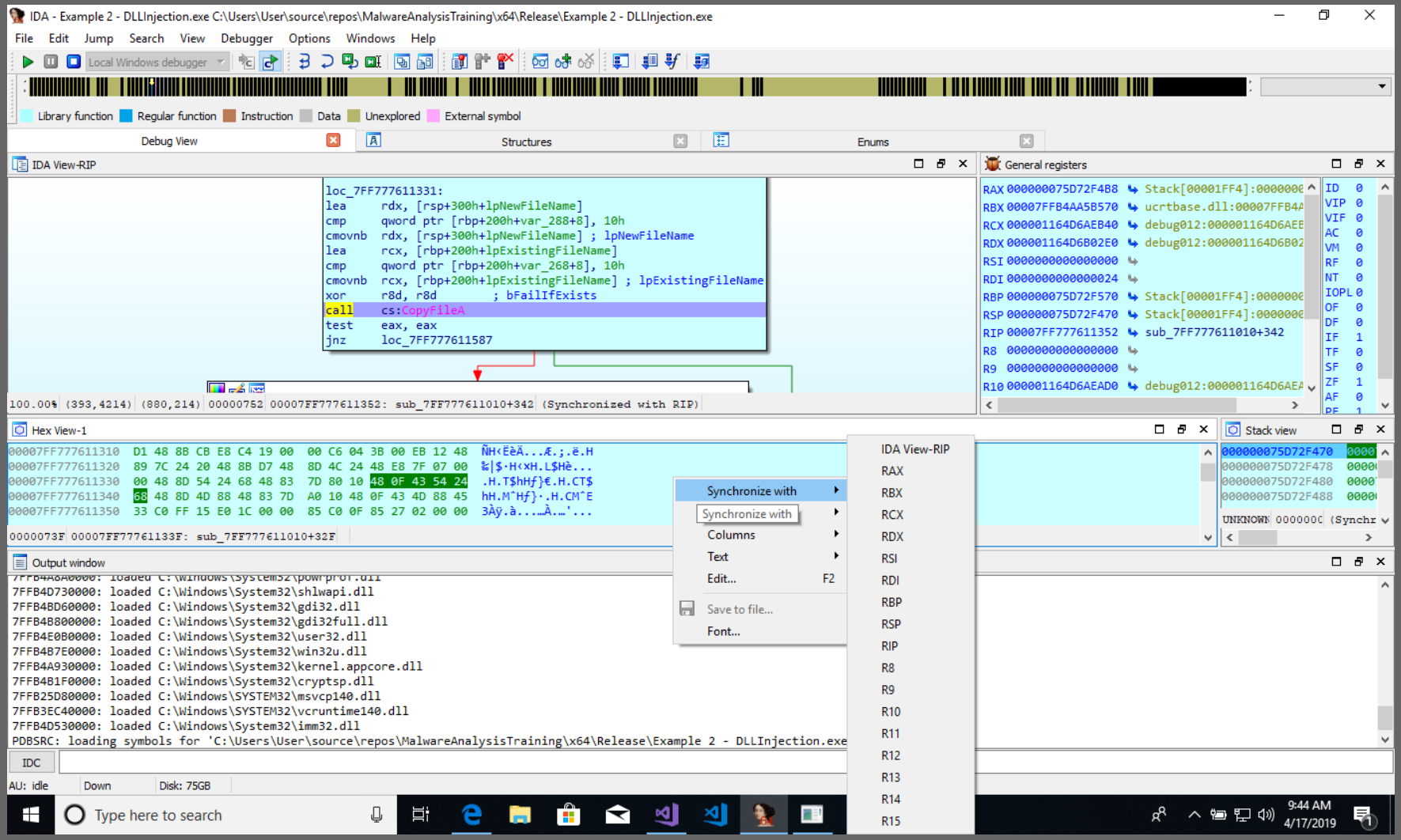
You'll notice the line has the instruction “cmovnb rcx, [rbp+200h+lpExistingFilename]”. It's a long way of saying

rcx = lpExistingFilename

If you hover over rcx you can see what the string is. It's a bit long.

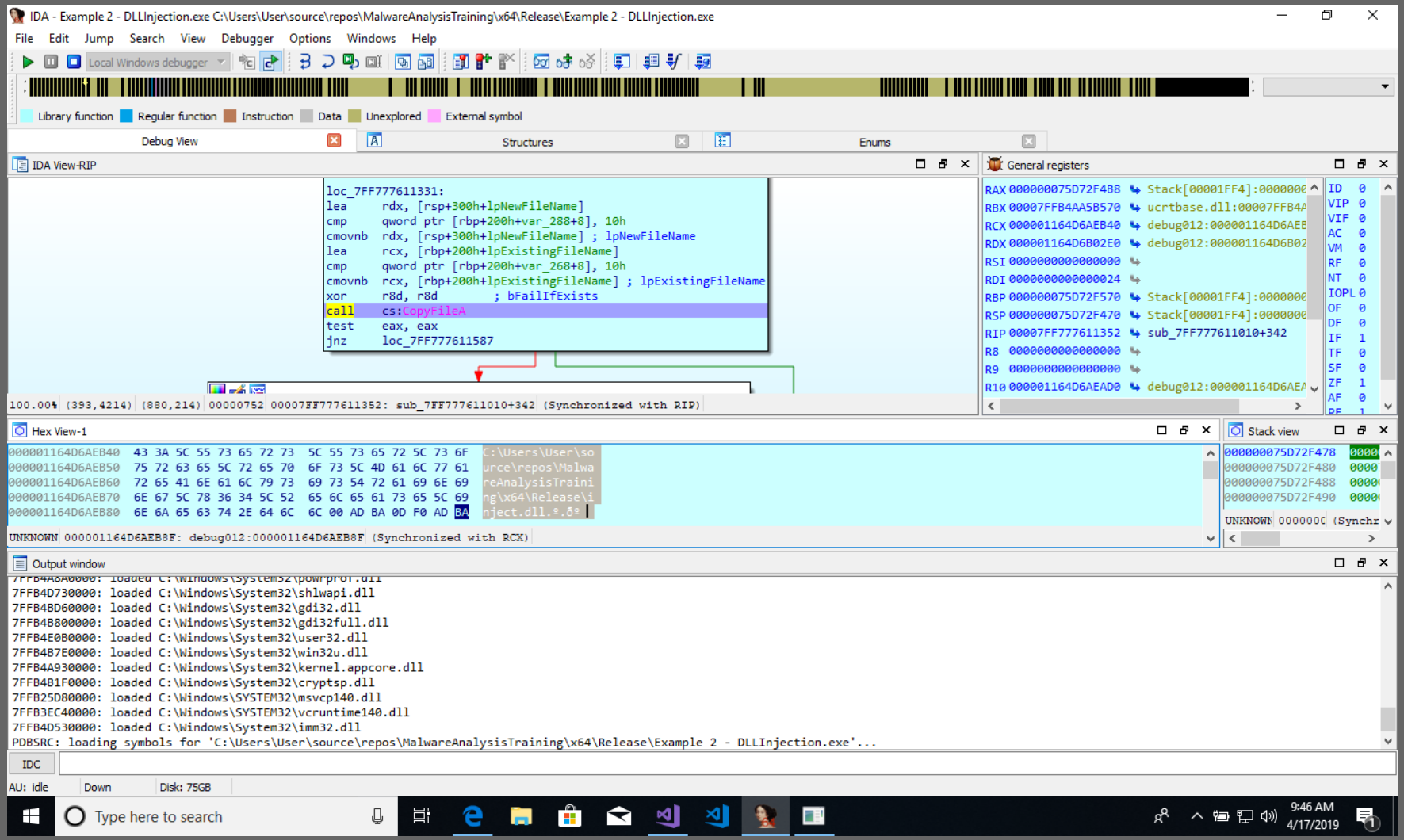


What we do is in the “Hex view – 1” sub view, below the box graph view, is right click the hex view and you'll see a “Synchronize with” button. Hover over to RCX and click RCX to make the hex view align with RCX in memory.

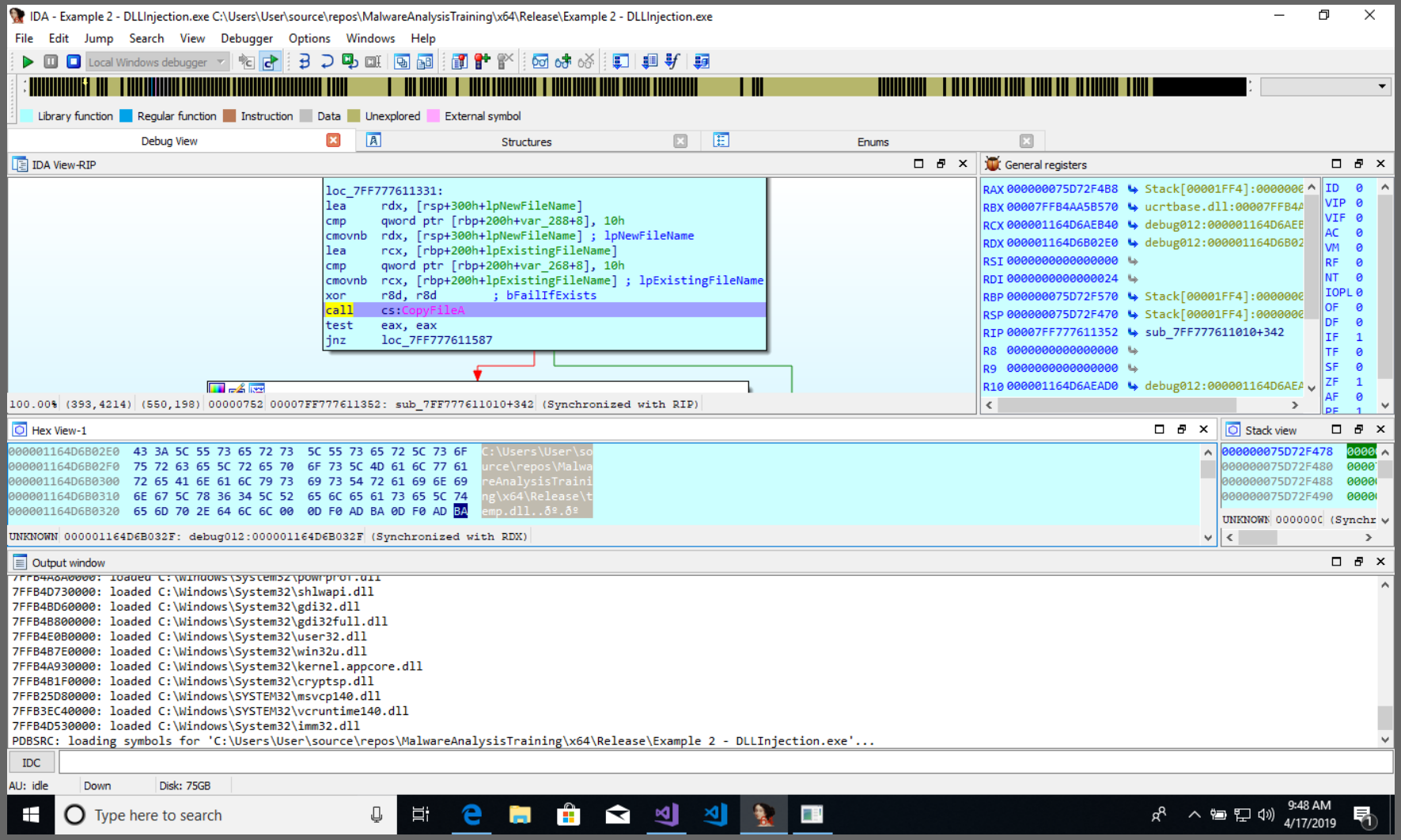


I highlighted in gray below to show the interesting filename that pops up in memory. It looks like our inject.dll.

Now see the line with lpNewFileName? Synchronize with RDX to see what his value is.



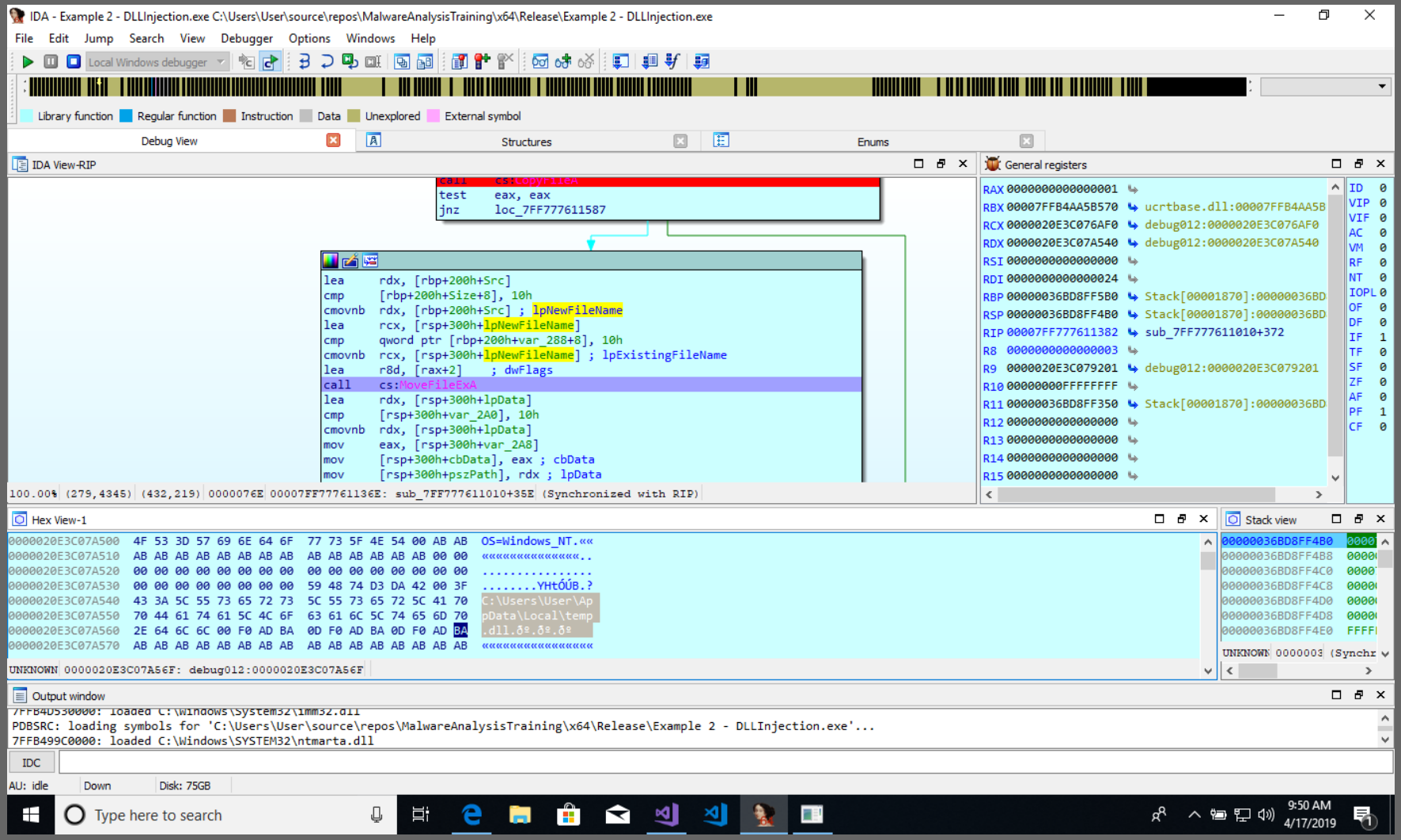
Looks like it's named “temp.dll”. So what we know now is that the binary is basically copying the inject.dll and renaming it to temp.dll.



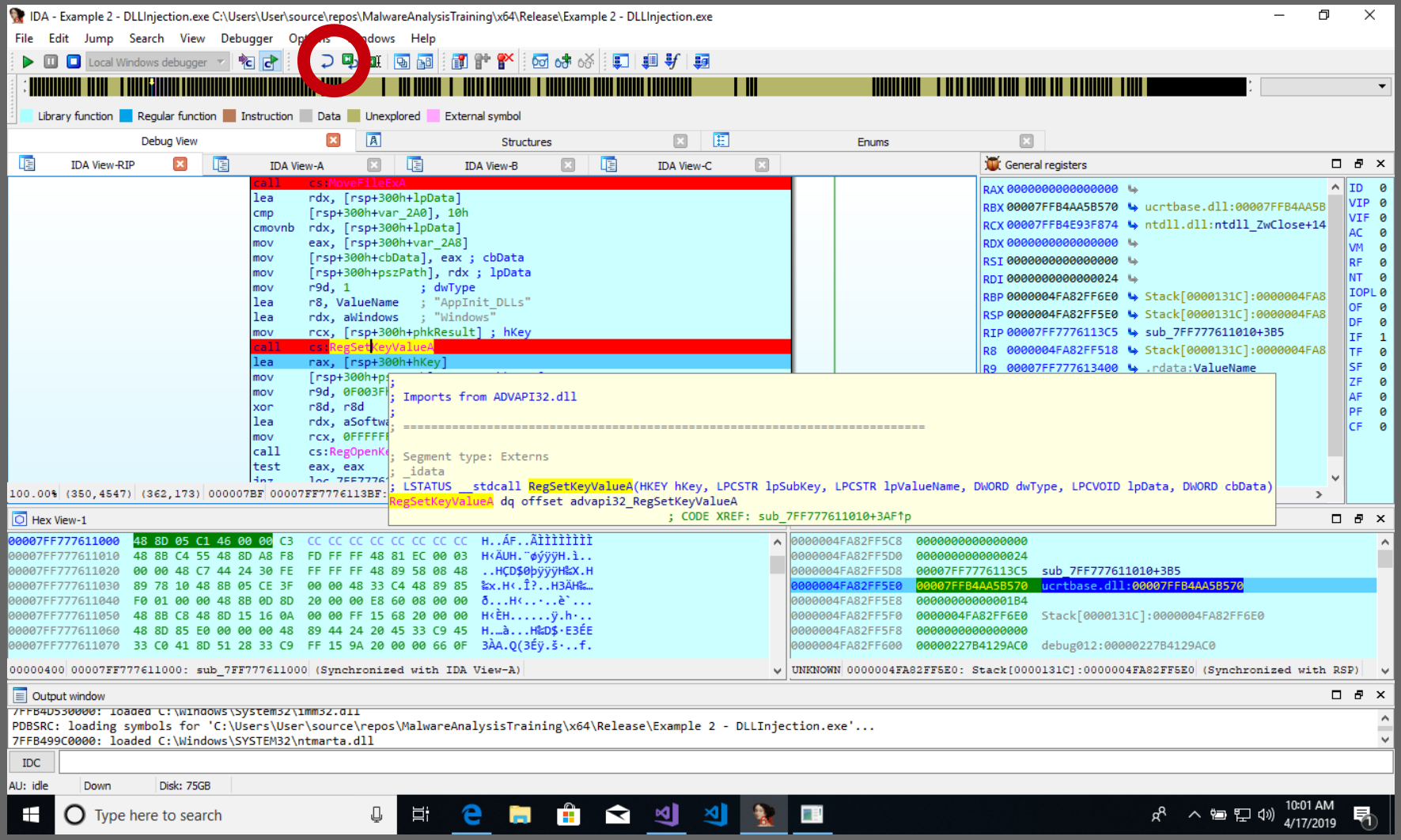
Next piece of evidence

- What about MoveFileExA?
- Let's put a breakpoint there and see what gets pushed through

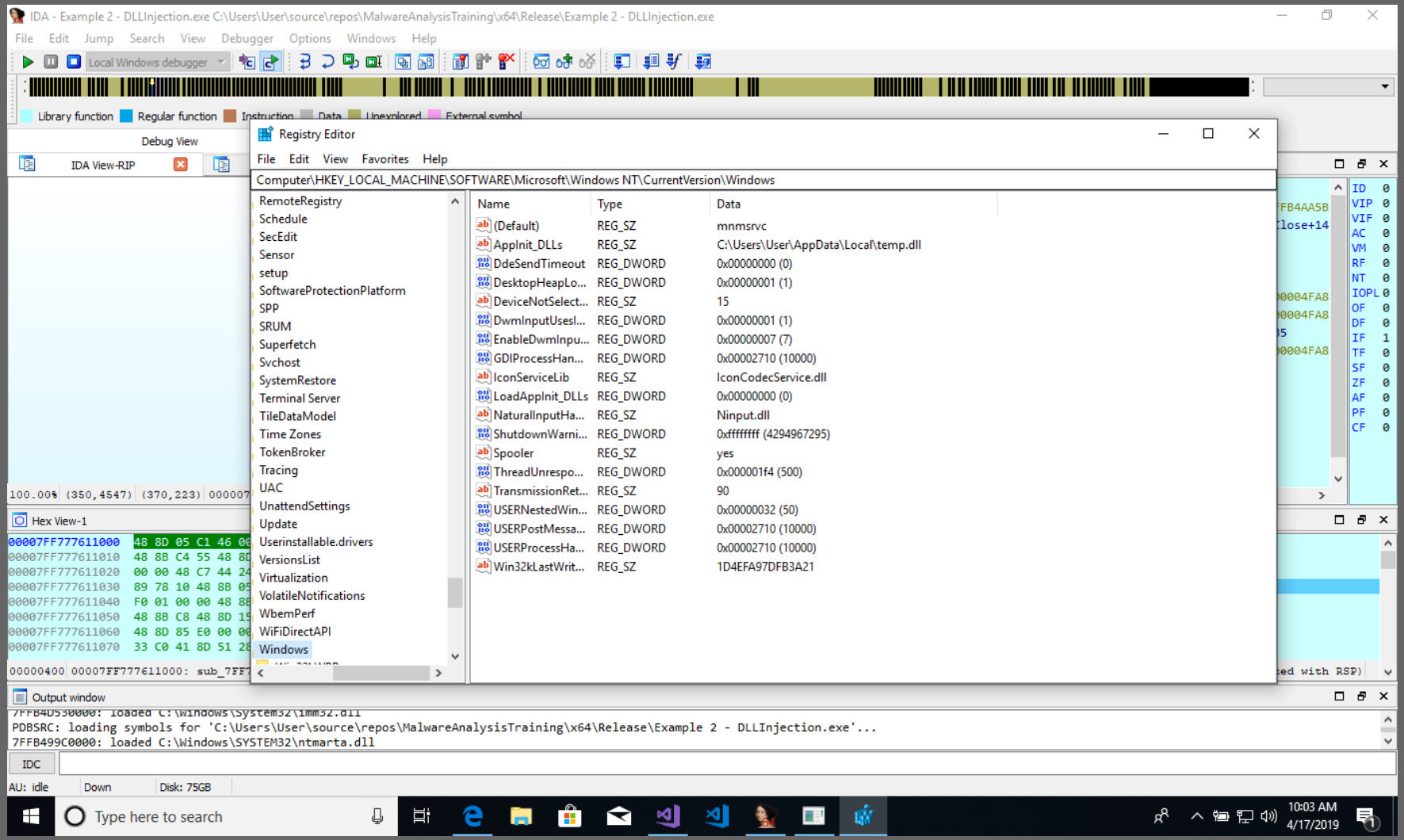
Breakpoint and continuing to MoveFileExA and synchronizing with RDX shows us where the binary wishes to put the temp.dll. It looks like the file is being placed in AppData/Local.



Now lets breakpoint on RegSetValueA and step one line over it. I circled in red below the jump over button. Let's go into “regedit” and check the registry to see if the binary did modify AppInit_DLLs



That looks like a yes to me. The binary replaced the AppInit_DLLs with the temp.dll hiding in AppData/Local. Also if you noticed LoadInit_DLLs is now the value “1”.



Current analysis

- So we have the general idea of what's happening with the main binary.
- It's copying/renaming the inject.dll to temp.dll, moving temp.dll to AppData/Local.
- Then modifying the AppInit_DLLs registry to point to that “.dll”.

Further analysis

- Now using the normal analysis routine of static analysis and dynamic analysis. Perform an analysis of the hidden “temp.dll” in the AppData/Local directory and see what you find.
- What does the temp.dll do?
- Is it also malicious?

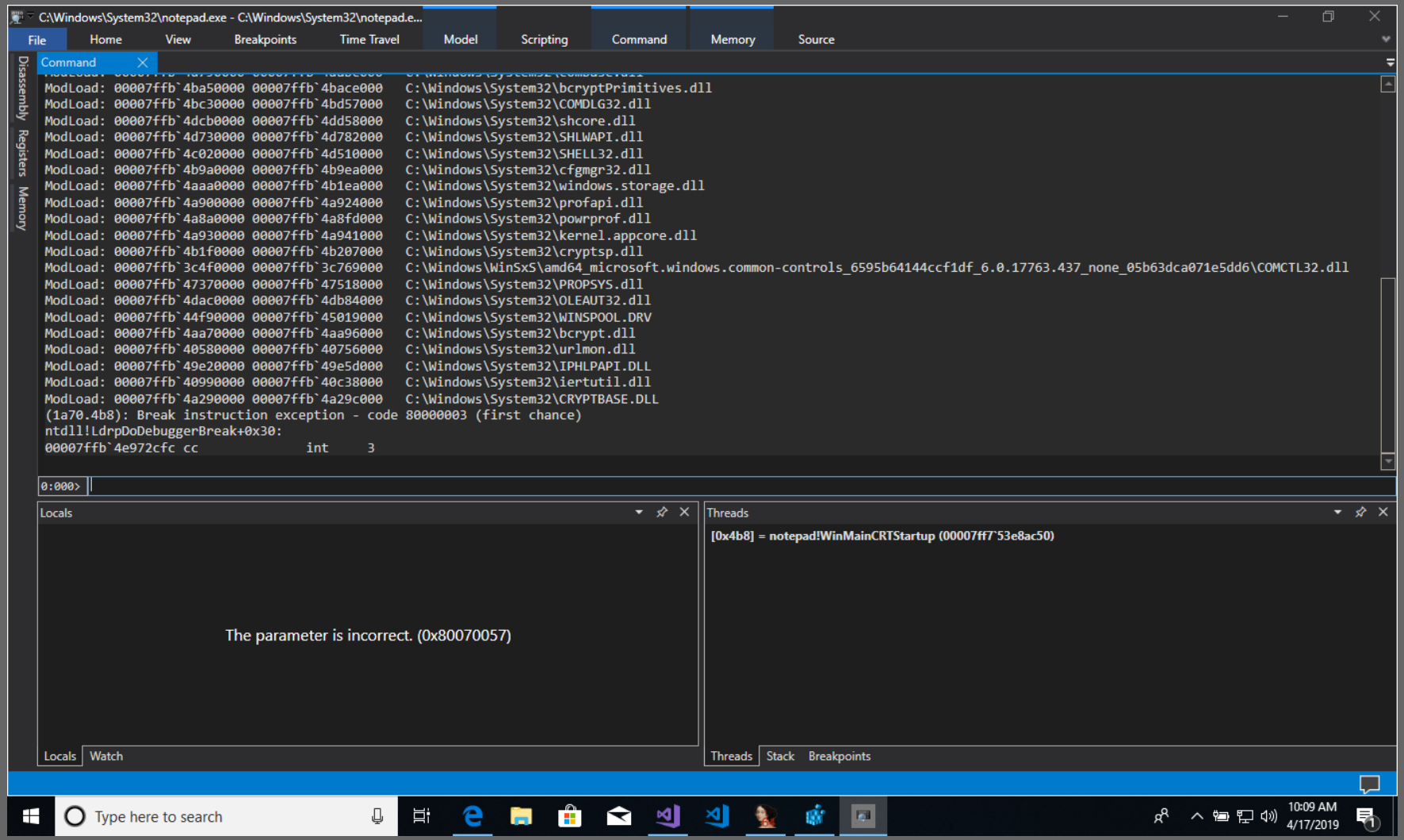
Further analysis cont.

- The answer is yes. It is malicious.
- Why?
- Was it a bit trickier to figure out what this “.dll” is meant to do?

Further analysis cont.

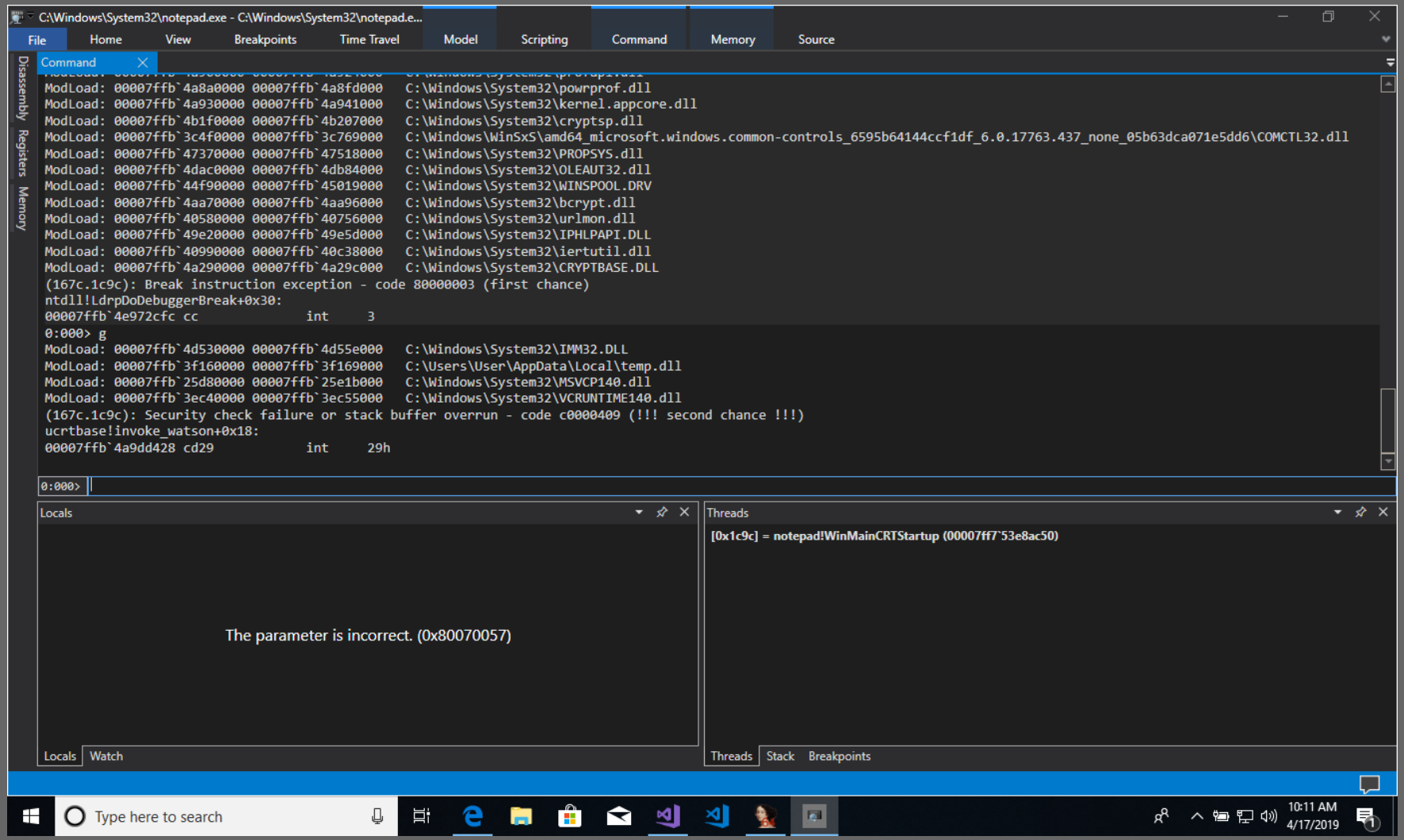
- The way I proved its maliciousness was using Windbg to prove my answer.
- What I did was open notepad, which uses user32.dll, in windbg and watched what happens.

Let's open windbg and launch notepad.exe within windbg. Then hit “GO” and watch happens.



So what does this mean?

It depends on the context. Most malware doesn't want anti-virus popping up. Anti-virus uses user32 to render messages on your screen. So this .dll in particular prevents such an event by crashing anything that loads user32.dll



Closing the Analysis

- So we've developed a pretty reasonable timeline at this point.
- The registry key of AppInit_DLLs is being used by the malware to load a “temp.dll” that prevents anything loading user32.dll from running.
- This is a pretty simple summary, but details the analysis perfectly.
- We can consider our analysis finished here.